

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PUBLIC NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL HEARING AND INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN  
POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0061719-02-0

Permittee: Crave Brothers Farm LLC, W11550 Torpy Rd, Waterloo, WI 53594

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Crave Brothers Farm LLC, W11550 Torpy Road, T9N R13E Sec 21 NWQ SEQ,  
Town of Portland, Dodge County

Receiving Water and Location: to the groundwater of the Lower Crawfish River and the Mauneshia River  
Watersheds, tributaries to the Upper Rock River Drainage Basin

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: Crave Brothers Farm, LLC is a cheese factory and a large farm located at W11550 Torpy Road, in Waterloo, Wisconsin. The cheese factory (Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese, LLC) operates their land application program under Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) Permit WI 0061719-01 which expired on March 31, 2006. The facility has submitted an application for reissuance of their WPDES permit, so it remains active. Crave Brothers Farm, LLC currently have about 690 cows (lactating and dry) along with replacement calves and heifers for a total of 1,409 animal units located at five sites. The facility has submitted plans to expand over the next 5 years to a total of 1,190 cows (lactating and dry) along with replacement calves and heifers for a total of 2,427 animal units. Since the size of this operation exceeds 1,000 animal units as defined in Ch. NR 243 Wis. Adm. Code, an application has been submitted for issuance of a WPDES Permit for the farm. The Department is proposing to cover the entire operation under one permit. The proposed permit will have a duration of approximately five years with an expiration date of September 30, 2011. In addition to increasing the number of animals at the farm, they are proposing several other changes to the facility. They plan to build the first of two manure digesters to capture methane gas for the production of electricity in the fall of 2006. Manure solids (bio-solids) will be separated. Approximately 40-50% of the bio-solids will be exported off the farm to be used in potting soil. The remaining 50-60% will be recycled as bedding material on-farm. Manure liquids after digestion and separation will be directed to a new 8.2 million gallon lagoon to be stored until it can be land applied. In addition they plan to construct 3 new barns and a new feed storage area. Several existing barns, outside feedlots, and the existing manure pit will be abandoned and removed. An Environmental Assessment has been prepared for the new construction and expansion and was certified on August 24, 2006. It is available for review. The plans and specifications for the construction projects have been approved by the Department. The facility currently has animals at four satellite farms and at the Home farm. Three of these facilities will be gradually phased out of use and replaced with new housing at the Main dairy facility. Runoff controls and manure storage facilities at each of the sites will be evaluated and either upgraded or abandoned.

Crave Brothers operate 1,586 acres of cropland acres which are planted to alfalfa, corn for grain, corn for silage, and soybeans.

Whey from the cheese factory will continue to be fed to the animals and the remaining whey will be directed through the manure digester before entering the lagoon. However, within a couple years, plans are to construct a system that will allow them to feed 100% of the whey produced. Wash water from the cheese factory will continue to be directed to an existing above ground storage unit, until it is applied to farm fields.

Permit Drafter/Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Mark Cain, DNR, SCR Headquarters, 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd, Fitchburg, WI 53711, (608) 275-3252, mark.cain@dnr.state.wi.us

The Department has tentatively decided that the above specified WPDES permit should be reissued.

Limitations and conditions which the Department believes adequately protect the receiving water are included in the proposed permit. Land application of waste shall be done in accordance with permit conditions and applicable codes. All land application sites shall be approved prior to their use.

Hearing Date, Time, and Location: Monday October 23, 2006, at 4 pm at the Junginger Meeting room in the Karl Junginger Memorial Library in Waterloo, Wisconsin

Hearing Officer: Dan Heim, DNR, Horicon Service Center, N7725 Highway 28, Horicon, WI 53032, (920) 387 - 7865

The Department of Natural Resources, pursuant to Section 283.49, Wisconsin Statutes, has scheduled for the time and place listed above, a public hearing for the purpose of giving all interested persons an opportunity to make a statement with respect to the above announced permit action for this existing discharge.

A hearing officer will conduct the hearing in an orderly and speedy way and will use procedures specified in Subchapter II of ch. NR 203, Wis. Adm. Code, necessary to insure broad public participation in the hearing.

The hearing officer will open the hearing and make a concise statement of the scope and purpose of the hearing and shall state what procedures will be used during the course of the hearing. The hearing officer shall explain the method of notification of the final decision to grant or deny the permit and the methods by which the decision may be reviewed in a public adjudicatory hearing.

The hearing officer may put limits on individual oral statements to insure an opportunity for all persons present to make statements in a reasonable period of time and to prevent undue repetition. The hearing officer may also limit the number of representatives making oral statements on behalf of any person or group.

Informational and clarifying questions and oral statements shall be directed through the hearing officer. Cross-examination shall not be allowed.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action are invited to do so by attending the public hearing or by submitting any comments or objections in writing to the Department of Natural Resources, at the permit drafter's address. All comments or suggestions received from members of the public no later than 7 days following the date of this public hearing will be used, along with other information on file and testimony presented at the hearing, in making a final determination. Where designated as a reviewable surface water discharge permit, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is allowed up to 90 days to submit comments or objections regarding this permit determination.

Information on file for this permit action, including the draft permit and fact sheet (if required), may be inspected and copied at the permit drafter/basin engineer's office, Monday through Friday (except holidays), between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Please call the permit drafter/basin engineer for directions to their office location, if necessary. Information on this permit action may also be obtained by calling the permit drafter at (608) 275-3252 or by writing to the Department. Reasonable costs (usually 20 cents per page) will be charged for copies of information in the file other than the public notice and fact sheet. Permit information is also available on the internet at: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/ww>. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be made to qualified individuals upon request.

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